

STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

At no time has the administration or an authorized representative of Sir George Williams University indicated to the black students occupying the Computer Centre in the Hall Building that the proposals for ending their occupation, which they submitted on Monday, February 10, would be accepted. The students were told that these proposals, which had been most carefully considered, could act as a basis for further negotiations, and the University expected negotiations to continue. However, any agreement resulting from such negotiations would have to prove acceptable to Professor Anderson.

The following is the sequence of events: On Saturday, February 8, the six black student complainants signed a formal authorization to Mr. Donald Oliver to act as their legal representative; with him was associated Mr. Michael Flavell of Montreal.

At 2 a.m. on Monday, February 10, Mr. Oliver handed Mr. David Schwartz, the University lawyer, a statement signed by his clients outlining the terms on which they would call off their occupation and "undertake that no violence will be directed towards Professor Anderson during the negotiation of the affair." It should be noted that talk of violence had already caused Mr. Flavell to withdraw his services in writing. Mr. Schwartz agreed to transmit the proposals to the University administration as a document to be used in further negotiations.

The document called for the setting up of a new five-man hearing committee consisting of two non-negotiable members appointed by each party to the dispute, with the fifth selected by both parties, "or any other form of committee that is mutually acceptable." The new committee should be chosen and approved not later than February 15. Other proposals related to the dropping of legal charges and the making-up of course time lost by black students.

Mr. Schwartz handed these proposals to Dr. John O'Brien, Vice-Principal Academic, who discussed them during the day with a number of members of the University community. Dr. O'Brien also sought the views of the Council of



the Sir George Williams Association of University Teachers on their usefulness as a basis for negotiation. Since the proposals directly affected a member of faculty, Professor Anderson, it was essential that the administration know the reactions of the SGWAUT Council.

The SGWAUT Council reactions were conveyed to Dr. O'Brien at 10:30 p.m. The Council said it was encouraged by the fact that the students were making concrete proposals for the formulation of a new committee. To dissolve the existing hearing committee without mutual agreement on its replacement would be a violation of Professor Anderson's rights, but, the Council believed, that discussions could still take place about the constitution of a further committee. It suggested that there be three jointly appointed members, rather than one, since experience has shown that it should be easier to obtain mutual agreement on this basis. Also, if a formula acceptable to all parties were found, there should be a seven-day time limit for naming members, with the Principal making the appointments should no agreement be reached.

The University saw this position as a reasonable basis for continuing negotiations, and Dr. O'Brien outlined these views to Mr. Schwartz, who passed them to Mr. Oliver by telephone at 11:45 p.m. Mr. Schwartz also told Mr. Oliver that the administration considered that negotiations could, and ought to, continue next day. Mr. Oliver later confirmed to Mr. Schwartz that he had telephoned his clients in the Computer Centre at about midnight to convey these views to them.

The occupiers resorted to violence at 4 a.m. on Tuesday. Mr. Schwartz telephoned Mr. Oliver to tell him what had happened. Mr. Oliver, who had been planning to meet his clients at 8 a.m., shortly afterwards informed Mr. Schwartz that he had told them that in view of their actions he could no longer represent them.